

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A still image generating apparatus that generates still image data from multiple image data, comprising:

5 an image acquisition unit that obtains multiple first image data that are arranged in a time-series from the multiple image data;

 an image storage unit that stores the multiple first image data obtained by the image acquisition unit;

10 a correction amount estimation unit that estimates with regard to the multiple first image data stored in the image storage unit, the correction amount required to correct for positional deviation among the images expressed by each image data; and

15 an image synthesizer that corrects the positional deviation among the images expressed by the multiple first image data based on the estimated correction amounts, and synthesizes the corrected multiple first image data to generate as the still image data second image data having a higher resolution than the first image data.

2. The still image generating apparatus according to Claim 1,
20 wherein the multiple image data include moving image data

3. The still image generating apparatus according to Claim 2,
 wherein when an image data acquisition instruction is issued, the image acquisition unit obtains the multiple first image data from the multiple image data and the storage unit stores the obtained multiple first image data.

4. The still image generating apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the image acquisition unit sequentially obtains the first image data from the multiple image data and the image storage unit sequentially updates the stored multiple first image data with the obtained first image data, and wherein when an image data acquisition instruction is issued, the image storage unit maintains the stored multiple first image data.

5. The still image generating apparatus according to Claim 1, 10 wherein when an image data acquisition instruction is issued, the image acquisition unit obtains the multiple first image data from the multiple image data and the storage unit stores the obtained multiple first image data.

15 6. The still image generating apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the image acquisition unit sequentially obtains the first image data from the multiple image data and the image storage unit sequentially updates the stored multiple first image data with the obtained first image data, and wherein when an image data acquisition instruction is issued, the 20 image storage unit maintains the stored multiple first image data.

7. The still image generating apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the image storage unit stores, in addition to the multiple first image data, the second image data generated by the image synthesizer.

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8. The still image generating apparatus according to Claim 7,

wherein where the image synthesizer is allowed to adopt one of multiple image synthesis methods selectively when synthesizing the corrected multiple first image data to generate the second image data, the image storage unit stores the second image data synthesized using different 5 synthesis methods separately according to the synthesis method employed.

9. The still image generating apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein when an instruction is issued for re-synthesizing the corrected multiple first image data using the same synthesis method that was 10 previously used on the data, the image synthesizer reads out the second data that was already synthesized using that method from the image storage unit rather than performing synthesis to the corrected multiple first image data.

15 10. The still image generating apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the image storage unit stores, in addition to the multiple first image data, position information indicating the time location in the multiple image data for at least one of the obtained multiple first image data.

20 11. The still image generating apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a thumbnail image creation unit that creates thumbnail image data from the second image data generated by the image synthesizer; and

25 an image display unit that displays at least the thumbnail image expressed by this thumbnail data,

wherein the image display unit displays the thumbnail image

together with predetermined information concerning the second image data corresponding to the thumbnail image.

12. The still image generating apparatus according to Claim 11,
5 wherein where the image synthesizer is allowed to adopt one of multiple image synthesis methods selectively when synthesizing the corrected multiple first image data to generate the second image data, the predetermined information is information that indicates the synthesis method employed when the second image data corresponding to the
10 thumbnail image data was generated.

13. A still image generating method of generating still image data from multiple image data, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining multiple first image data that are arranged in a
15 time-series from the multiple image data;
(b) storing the obtained multiple first image data in memory;
(c) estimating from the stored multiple first image data the correction amount required to correct for positional deviation among images expressed by each image data; and
20 (d) correcting the positional deviation among the images expressed by the multiple first image data based on the estimated correction amounts, and synthesizing the corrected multiple first image data to generate as the still image data second image data having a higher resolution than the first image data.

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14. A computer-readable recording medium on which is recorded a

computer program that generates still image data from multiple image data, wherein the computer program executes on the computer the functions of:

obtaining multiple first image data that are arranged in a time-series from the multiple image data;

5 storing the obtained multiple first image data in memory;

estimating from the stored multiple first image data the correction amount required to correct for positional deviation among images expressed by each image data; and

10 correcting positional deviation among the images expressed by the multiple first image data based on the estimated correction amounts and synthesizing the corrected multiple first image data to generate as the still image data second image data having a higher resolution than the first image data.